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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/524,366	02/11/2005	Jurgen Meyer	032301.411	9856
25461 SMITH, GAM	7590 09/06/2007 BRELL & RUSSELL		EXAM	IINER
SUITE 3100, PROMENADE II			HAILEY, PATRICIA L	
1230 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E. ATLANTA, GA 30309-3592			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1755	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/06/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)			
Office Action Summary	10/524,366	MEYER ET AL.			
Onice Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit			
7	Patricia L. Hailey	1755			
The MAILING DATE of this communication ap Period for Reply	pears on the cover sheet w	ith the correspondence address			
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPL WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING Description of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statut Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	DATE OF THIS COMMUNION (136(a). In no event, however, may a red will apply and will expire SIX (6) MON te, cause the application to become AB	CATION. reply be timely filed VTHS from the mailing date of this communication. BANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).			
Status					
1)⊠ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>07 A</u>	<u> August 2007</u> .				
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL . 2b) ☑ Thi					
3) Since this application is in condition for allowa	☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is				
closed in accordance with the practice under	Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D). 11, 453 O.G. 213.			
Disposition of Claims					
4) ☑ Claim(s) 1,4-7,11,12 and 14-20 is/are pending 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdra 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☑ Claim(s) 1,4-7,11,12 and 14-20 is/are rejected 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/o	awn from consideration.				
Application Papers					
9) The specification is objected to by the Examina 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accomposed and accomposed accomposed and accomposed and accomposed and accomposed and accomposed and accomposed and accomposed accomposed and accomposed accomposed accomposed and accomposed accomposed accomposed accomposed accomposed and accomposed accompose	cepted or b) objected to e drawing(s) be held in abeyar ction is required if the drawing	nce. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). (s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).			
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119					
a) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority document 2. Certified copies of the priority document 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority document application from the International Burea	nts have been received. Its have been received in A prity documents have been	application No			
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list		received.			
	·				
Attachment(s)	, 	Summan (DTO 443)			
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date	Paper No(s	Summary (PTO-413) s)/Mail Date nformal Patent Application 			

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 7, 2007, has been entered.

Applicants' submission includes an amendment, in which claims 2, 3, 8-10, and 13 have been canceled; no new claims have been added.

Claims 1, 4-7, 11, 12, and 14-20 remain pending in this application.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Applicants' Priority Document was filed on February 11, 2005.

Withdrawn Rejections

The provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 1, 7, and 8 as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 4-9 of copending Application Serial No. 10/532,202, stated in the Final Rejection, has been withdrawn in view of the Terminal Disclaimer filed by Applicants on June 9, 2007.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 12, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Deller et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,776,240).

Deller et al. disclose granules based on silicon dioxide. The particles may be prepared by dispersing pyrogenically prepared silicon dioxide in water, spray drying it and silanizing the granules obtained with agents such as halosilanes, alkoxysilanes, silazanes, and/or siloxanes. See col. 1, line 48 to col.2, line 5 of Deller et al.

Exemplary agents include organosilanes of the type $(RO)_3Si(C_nH_{2n+1})$, where R is alkyl and n = 1 to 20. Preferably, the silanizing agent is trimethoxyoctylsilane. See col. 3, lines 20-21 and col. 5, lines 32-33 of Deller et al.

The silanization may be carried out by spraying the granular material with the silanizing agent, and subsequently heat-treating (under a protective inert gas, such as nitrogen) the mixture at a temperature of from 105°C to 400°C over a period of 1 to 6 hours.

The silanization can be carried out with heatable mixers equipped with spraying facilities; examples include ploughshare mixers disk dryers, or fluidized bed dryers. See col. 6, lines 6-11 of Deller et al.

In view of these teachings, Deller et al. anticipate claims 1-4, 7, 11, 12. and 14-16.

5. Claims 1, 4, 7, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ettlinger et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,665,156).

Ettlinger et al. teach silanized, pyrogenically prepared silicic acids that are prepared by treating said silicic acids with an organosilane selected from the group consisting of (RO)₃SiC_nH_{2n+1}, in which n is from 10 to 18 and R is alkyl. See col. 1, lines 22-27 of Ettlinger et al.

Examples of the organosilane include hexadecyltrimethoxysilane and octadecyltrimethoxysilane. See col. 2, lines 14 and 15 of Ettlinger et al.

Patentees' silicic acids are prepared in that the pyrogenically prepared silicic acids are placed in a mixer, and while being mixed the silicic acids are sprayed, optionally first with water and then with the organosilane compound; mixing is continued from 15 to 30 minutes, and then temperature stabilization is done at a temperature ranging from 100°C to 160°C over a period of time from 1 to 3 hours. See col. 2, lines 8-24 of Ettlinger et al.

The silanized silicic acids of Ettlinger et al. have properties comparable to those recited in claim 8, except for the DBP value; however, given that the reference teaches the remaining claimed properties, one skilled in the art would anticipate the silanized silicic acids of Ettlinger et al. to exhibit a comparable DBP value. See Table 2 of Ettlinger et al.

The silanized silicic acids disclosed in Ettlinger et al. are employable as thickening agents in liquids, such as water-dilutable paints, resins, rubber, cosmetic articles, toner powders, as agents for improving pourability, and as reinforcing fillers. See col. 3, lines 13-20 of Ettlinger et al.

In view of these teachings, Ettlinger et al. anticipate claims 1, 4, 7, and 11.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* v. *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:
 - 1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 - 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 - 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 - 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
- 8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 1, 4-7, 11, 12, and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deller et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,776,240) or Ettlinger et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,665,156) taken with Nargiello et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,193,795).

Both Deller et al. and Ettlinger et al. are relied upon for their teachings in the aforementioned rejections. Neither reference specifically discloses that the respective silanized pyrogenically produced silicas are "structurally modified".

Nargiello et al. disclose the production of low structure pyrogenic metal oxides, via subjecting said oxides to a dry milling process whereby the pyrogenically produced metal oxide is contacted in an agitating zone with an energy specific force. See the Abstract of Nargiello et al.

Exemplary metal oxides suitable for this process include pyrogenic silicon dioxide, which can be hydrophobized with silane/organosilicon compounds. See col. 6, lines 4-30 of Nargiello et al., where properties of said silicon dioxide are disclosed; note that these properties are comparable to that recited in Applicants? claim 8, and also to those disclosed in both Deller et al. and Ettlinger et al.

Nargiello et al. also disclose the feasibility in dry milling the aforementioned silicon dioxide, said feasibility including particle size reduction, reducing the DBP absorption, and increasing the bulk density. See col. 5, lines 46-67 of Nargiello et al.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of either Deller et al. or Ettlinger et al. by performing the additional dry milling process of Nargiello et al., and thereby obtain Applicants' invention.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patricia L. Hailey whose telephone number is (571) 272-1369. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo, can be reached on (571) 272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 1700 Receptionist, whose telephone number is (571) 272-1700.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Patricia L. Hailey/plh

Examiner, Art Unit 1755

August 24, 2007

J.A. UØRENGO SUPERVISØBY PATENT EXAMINER